

Media Advisory June 6, 2011
(updated June 21, 2011)

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A not-for-profit
association
in collaboration with



Austin
Independent
School District

and



Austin Chamber of
Commerce

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IMPACT AUSTIN PRESENTS AUSTIN PARTNERS IN EDUCATION WITH \$108,000 GRANT AWARD FOR READING STARS PROGRAM

Impact Austin has named **Austin Partners in Education (APIE)** as a 2011 Community Partner. The grant award of \$108,400 will allow APIE to empower over 500 6th grade students to become stronger, more independent readers. We will continue to serve Webb Middle School and will expand the program to another middle school over the next two years. Students will perfect their reading in the new **Reading Stars** program, and will bolster their fluency and vocabulary by creating their own book- on-tape. The recorded stories will be shared with children at a partner elementary school.

Speaking at the presentation at Webb MS, where much of the grant will be used, Impact Austin's Community Partners **Val Meddaugh and Lisa Lyons** (pictured below with APIE Exec. Director Kathrin Brewer) explained the group's approach. By combining annual donations from members, the women provide multiple high impact grants of more than \$100,000 each to local organizations. To date, Impact Austin has granted more than \$3.1 million to Austin non-profits. APIE is profoundly grateful to have been selected for this highly-competitive grant from the extraordinary women of Impact Austin.



We also thank our friends at Webb Middle School, especially Principal Ray Garcia, Asst. Principal Valerie Torres-Solis and the wonderful children who shared their Classroom Coaching experiences with our Impact Austin guests. We thank our founders, Austin Independent School District and Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce and our other Webb programs funders: Applied Materials Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, KDK-Harman Foundation, and Intel Corporation for their support in serving our students.

Our call for volunteers for **6th Grade Reading Classroom Coaching** begins in August. To express interest in this volunteer opportunity for fall, please visit www.austinpartners.org/volunteer

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